

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph [0002] beginning on page 1, as follows:

[0002] A patient receives a medicine bag containing medicines such as tablets and triturates prepared in accordance with a prescription. A medicine bag printing apparatus prints a name of a patient, a name of a medicine, guidance such as timing of taking the medicine and a dosage of the medicine, and the like on the medicine bag. In a conventional medicine bag printing apparatus, medicine bags different in size from each other are produced from medicine bag base paper wound around a medicine bag roll. Then, the medicine bags thus produced are transferred to a printer, and necessary information is printed on each medicine bag by the printer. Thereafter, the medicine bags each subjected to the printing process are carried out of the printer (refer to, e.g., JP2000-218873A, ~~JP06-16343A~~ JP06-16343U and JP09-168578A). The medicine bags carried out of the printer are sorted for each patient by a sorting device.

Please amend the paragraph [0003] beginning on page 1, as follows:

[0003] However, the conventional medicine bag printing apparatus has a problem of poor transfer efficiency because medicine bags each subjected to a printing process are carried out of the printer one by one. In addition, in a case where the ~~medicines~~medicine bags each subjected to the printing process are sorted for each patient, since the medicine bags are transferred at random, a sort of the medicine bags for each patient becomes complicated and control thereof also becomes complicated.

Please amend the paragraph [0016] beginning on page 5, as follows:

[0016] From the first medicine bag supply section 2, a first medicine bag transfer path 16 extends to the first inkjet printer 5 via a first sorting section 15 and a second medicine bag

transfer path 17 extends to the second inkjet printer 6 via the first sorting section 15. Thus, medicine bags 14514 to be supplied from the first medicine bag supply section 2 can be supplied to one of the first inkjet printer 5 and the second inkjet printer 6. From the second medicine bag supply section 3, a third medicine bag transfer path 19 extends to the second inkjet printer 6 via a second sorting section 18 and a fourth medicine bag transfer path 20 extends to the third inkjet printer 7 via the second sorting section 18. Thus, medicine bags 14 to be supplied from the second medicine bag supply section 3 can be supplied to one of the second inkjet printer 6 and the third inkjet printer 7. From the third medicine bag supply section 4, a fifth medicine bag transfer path 21 extends to the second sorting section 18. Thus, medicine bags 14 to be supplied from the third medicine bag supply section 4 can be supplied to one of the second inkjet printer 6 and the third inkjet printer 7.

Please amend the paragraph [0021] beginning on page 7, as follows:

[0021] The discharge section 9 includes a medicine bag common transfer path 45 and a medicine bag extraction tray 46. The medicine bag common transfer path 45 changes orientation of medicine bags 14 discharged horizontally from each of the first medicine bag discharge path 36, the second medicine bag discharge path 37, the third medicine bag discharge path 38 and the fourth medicine bag discharge path 39 and, then, transfers the medicine bags 14 downward. The medicine bag extraction tray 46 is provided below the medicine bag common transfer ~~paths 36, 37, 38 and 39~~ path 45, and stores medicine bags 14 transferred from the medicine bag common transfer ~~paths 36, 37, 38 and 39~~ path 45 in a state that the medicine bags 14 are sorted for each patient by a sorting plate 47.